



00V-246.309

November 2, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Athey Products Corporation (Athey) received a letter from TRW Commercial Steering Systems (TRW) dated September 5, 2000 regarding a ball-socket recall (NHTSA campaign ID number is 00E-047). Athey also received a letter from ArvinMeritor dated October 13, 2000 regarding this same recall. TRW has determined that a potential defect exists which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain TRW 20-EDL model ball-socket assemblies manufactured from July 5, 1999 through October 3, 1999. These ball-socket assemblies may separate due to premature wear in some applications. If these were to separate there could be a loss of vehicle steering in some applications.

Athey uses tie rod assemblies that consist of (2) TRW 20-EDL model ball-socket assemblies per tie rod assembly. The tie rod assembly is Athey part number P203675 and TRW part number L20VT8121A11. The tie rod assemblies are used in Athey 712 Loaders; (1) tie rod assembly per machine. The Athey 712 is a four wheel, self-propelled, off-road loader. Per TRW's letter mentioned above, (29) tie rod assemblies shipped to Athey are suspect parts. Potentially, (53) Athey 712 Loaders contain the suspect tie rod assemblies. These include Athey 712 Loader serial numbers 740-218 through 740-270, manufactured between May 11, 1999 and October 11, 2000. No service tie rods have been sold that are effected by the recall. Defective tie rod assemblies can be identified by TRW manufacturing date codes stamped on ball-socket assemblies.

Per TRW's recommendation, all Athey 712 loaders with this defect will be recalled and replaced, in cooperation with TRW. Athey's mandatory service bulletin number MB136 has been assigned for this recall.

If you have any questions please contact me at (919) 556-5171 ext. 296, or by email at fredwakim@athey.com. You may also contact our Customer Service Manager, Susan Bailey at (919) 556-5171 ext. 224.

Sincerely,

Fred Wakim

Fred Wakim
Product Manager
Athey Products Corporation

Cc. Susan Bailey, Athey Products Corporation
David Hancock, Athey Products Corporation
Dan King, Athey Products Corporation



November 22, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

00V-246.309

Athey Products Corporation (Athey) received a letter from TRW Commercial Steering Systems (TRW) dated September 5, 2000 regarding a ball-socket recall (NHTSA campaign ID number 00E-047). Athey also received a letter from ArvinMeritor (AM) dated October 13, 2000 regarding this same recall.

TRW has determined that a potential defect exists which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain TRW 20-EDL model ball-socket assemblies manufactured from July 5, 1999 through October 3, 1999. These ball-socket assemblies may separate due to premature wear in some applications. If these were to separate there could be a loss of vehicle steering in some applications.

Athey uses tie rod assemblies that consist of (2) TRW 20-EDL model ball-socket assemblies per tie rod assembly. The tie rod assembly is Athey part number P814612 and TRW part number A23102K4379. This tie rod assembly is a component of an AM axle assembly, Athey part number P813114 and AM specification number FD965CHX15. The tie rod assemblies are used in Athey M8A, M9B, and M9D sweepers; (1) tie rod assembly per machine. The affected vehicles are four wheel, self-propelled, on-highway mechanical street sweepers. Per TRW's letter, (69) tie rod assemblies shipped to AM and then to Athey contain suspect parts. Potentially seventy-two (72) sweepers are affected by this recall.

Affected sweepers include the following:

M8A AHL from sequence 264P to 272P, 275P, 285P

M8A ABD (5yd) sequence 155N

M8A ABD (4yd) sequence 254M to 261M, 263M

M9B AHL from sequence 729S, 730S, 737S

M9D sequence 518Y, 519Y, 522Y to 539Y, 541Y, 543Y to 548Y, 551Y to 562Y, 567Y, 568Y, 570Y, 571Y, 588Y, 592Y, 593Y, 594Y, 597Y.

Affected sweepers were manufactured between September 17, 1999 and July 28, 2000. No affected service tie rods have been sold or exist in current inventory. Defective tie rod assemblies can be identified by TRW manufacturing data codes stamped on ball-socket assemblies.

Per TRW's recommendation, all Athey M8A, M9B and M9D sweepers with this defect will be recalled and replaced, in cooperation with TRW. Athey's mandatory service bulletin number MB137 has been assigned for this recall.



If you have any questions please contact me at (919) 556-5171 ext. 232, or by email at jameswilliams@athey.com. You may also contact our Customer Service Manager, Susan Bailey at (919) 556-5171 ext. 224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Williams".

James J Williams,
Mechanical Sweepers Product Manager
Athey Products Corporation

Cc. Susan Bailey, Athey Products Corporation
David Hancock, Athey Products Corporation
Dan King, Athey Products Corporation



December 7, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

00V-246.309

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Athey Products Corporation (Athey) received a letter from Freightliner LLC (FL) dated November 2000 regarding a ball-socket recall (NHTSA campaign ID number 00V-246.001 and Freightliner #FL268A-U).

FL has determined that a defect exists which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain ball-socket assemblies used on trucks manufactured from July 12, 1999 through October 10, 1999. These ball-sockets, used on certain tie rods, drag links, and steering assist cylinders, may contain bearing surfaces with a less than specified case depth and/or hardness and may wear out prematurely, resulting in a separation of the ball stud from the socket. This may cause a full or partial loss of steering control and possible vehicle crash without prior warning. The modification consists of replacing all affected ball stud and socket assemblies at FL dealers.

According to FL, seventeen (17) Athey M9E sweepers are affected by this recall and their sequence numbers are as follows: 143-1, 146-1 thru 148-1, 150-1 thru 154-1, 161-1, 167-1 thru 169-1, 171-1, 172-1, 174-1, 180-1. These sweepers were manufactured between September 21, 1999 and March 7, 2000.

This document is an addendum to a previous recall notification to NHTSA dated November 22, 2000 for Athey M8A/M9B/M9D mechanical sweepers (NHTSA campaign ID: 00E-047 and Athey mandatory bulletin MB137). The information in this addendum will be communicated via Athey MB137.

If you have any questions please contact me at (919) 556-5171 ext. 232, or by email at jameswilliams@athey.com. You may also contact our Customer Service Manager, Susan Bailey at (919) 556-5171 ext. 224.

Sincerely,

James J. Williams,
Mechanical Sweepers Product Manager
Athey Products Corporation

Cc. Susan Bailey, Athey Products Corporation
David Hancock, Athey Products Corporation
Dan King, Athey Products Corporation